

St. Louis, Mo.,

Feb 15 1886

Dear Dr Gray -

I did not send the plates because I rather thought that they were for work or hand - which father intended to publish

If so - and I think that I am right - Trelease will bring them back -

I must go a great deal - but I must ask you to allow me to send the volume at least to a dozen of father's most intimate friends - botanists - I have none other - 4 or 5 members of the family only - to whom I would send any - how as to money - you know - my dear D - that I will do any thing you wish - but I must do it equally - let Mr Shaw know what the cost will be - and

That you may inform him to allow  
him the privilege - if he wishes - to make  
up the amount - I believe can  
explain to him the why, and  
wherefore. As I understand I  
take 50 copies - and I think your  
idea a very good one - of taking  
the plates when done - when the time  
comes please give me an idea of cost.  
I shall very probably take them -

If you wish the amount for the  
50 volumes now - tell me - or I  
will send you the money when I  
can - Now - you know you might  
want it when I can not send it -  
Say I send you \$250. for the 50 vols -  
then we will have no repaying etc -  
if you then at the end, need more  
and Mr Shaw will not furnish  
it - Knowing that I am willing to  
do so - I am ready - but 250. I  
will send you

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Then you will have it on hand  
and will not have to bother  
about writing for it - waiting for  
it - The plate I send tomorrow -

I am very glad that Prof. Tolson  
can take so much off of your  
hands as I know it all to be  
a great tax on your valuable  
time - and that your friendship  
made you understand a work  
you had hardly realized when  
you spoke of compiling and  
adding - Completing - what  
would that have been?!

I do not wonder that you  
say you are busy - and busier the  
older you grow - I wish that I  
had time to push my under-  
taking I am in or would like  
to be in - and I already see that

then increase with the widening of  
our scope with year - as we  
advance we see more and more  
that is incomplet - and could be  
improved - altered or enlarged -

From J. Perry I had a pleasant  
letter some days ago. He has not  
yet come to St Louis and says  
he may not come until March.

We are well - quiet - nothing  
new - cold weather seems over -  
and our little pines have  
weathered the winter well - as  
they were covered with snow  
during the severe cold we had -

Mr. Jay, and you also, have  
not suffered from the severity of  
the winter, which I presume, rather  
aid your work as it seems to keep  
people a little more by their own  
fireside. With kindest regards from

Mr. E. and self  
Yours as ever  
Geo. P. Hughes